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POINT OF VIEW

NCPTT

STATE NEWS

POINT OF VIEW

Change

The cry of change has been ringing through the corridors of West Virginia University since the arrival of our new president. We are not alone in heeding this call, which is resounding throughout academia and the federal government. In many cases, the word is the title of a cautionary tale, but in other uses a call for new challenges and opportunities. The Institute for the History of Technology and Industrial Archaeology (IHTIA) has been swept up in the realities of change and is addressing these new challenges accordingly.

IHTIA collections coordinator, Larry Sypolt, has provided the leadership in taking us into the forefront of the communications age. Just as our 1854 farm house no longer stands in splendid isolation in a bucolic setting, IHTIA's communication and information links are now connected to the information super highway where we routinely email colleagues from as far away as St. Petersburg, Russia. But this is only a beginning. We now have access, not only to our own library holdings at the "click of a mouse," but to leading collections around the world. Thanks to our partnership with the Historic American Engineering Record (HAER), the world now has access to the computer index of the HABS/HAER database of over 30,000 documented sites and structures. Because of an IHTIA initiative, these holdings are accessible through WVNET (West Virginia Network for Educational Telecomputing).

This database is available through WVNET, using the gopher at the National Center for Preservation Technology and Training. (Access gopher.ncptt.nps.gov, choose National Park Service Resources, then Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record. This will connect the user directly to the Morgantown database.) Before long, users will also be able to access the HABS/HAER database directly through IHTIA's soon-to-be-established homepage on the World Wide Web.

With the development of an IHTIA homepage, users will be able to access updated information about ongoing projects, as well as services available. Once established, the homepage will also supplement our Field Notes and Annual Review, as well as promote other IHTIA publications like the monograph series, research reports, and related articles.

In a change of emphasis, IHTIA has joined hands with the distance learning group at West Virginia University to explore the possibilities for a cultural resources management program using the latest electronic technology. As envisioned, the program would serve practicing professionals across the country with emphasis on the needs of National Park Service personnel. Indeed, this could culminate in a certificate in Cultural Resources Management in conjunction with the National Park Service, with plans to hold internships at national parks or other appropriate locations.

Our documentary expertise has been greatly enhanced with the development of computer-

aided drafting and design capabilities (CADD), sophisticated structural analysis programs, non-destructive techniques for testing historic materials, and geographical information systems (GIS). In the future, we anticipate using digital cameras and other devices to send field data directly into our CADD system. The results of these changes in how we do business will be incorporated into our teaching activities.

In order to take advantage of these technological changes in the face of declining public funding, it has been necessary to restructure IHTIA and reduce our salary support, reflecting an anticipated reduction in our federal appropriations. With outside funding over and above our annual appropriation on the wane, we have taken action to reduce the budget for salaries to fit within our base budget. Such a move, while painful to make, will result in long-term security for IHTIA and enable us to take advantage of many opportunities looming on the horizon.

For more information on the IHTIA homepage, or the HABS/HAER collection, please send email requests to LSY-POLT@WVNVM.WVNET.EDU.

—Emory L. Kemp
Director, IHTIA

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Letters

Dear Editor:

I want to thank you for some help you have given me. Recently, I observed the first anniversary of my appointment as Director of this Division. I've been thinking about the growing list of people and agencies I want to thank for a very good first year. CRM has a special place on that list.

Although in existence for 15 years, my Division had not been directed by a person with professional credentials in historic preservation until I was appointed in October 1995. My predecessors, three very talented individuals with advanced skills in architecture or archeology, did not bring to their tenures the training in preservation program management, conservation techniques, etc., that I received while acquiring my Master of Science from the University of Vermont Historic Preservation Program.

Consequent to all that, I do things a bit differently from how they have been done in the past. Our staff have received training—for the first time—in basing our work more firmly in the legal, philosophical, and technical concepts on which preservation administration ought to be based. They are now exposed to the concept of conservation techniques such as wood consolidants and other methodology and means long available within our professional discipline, but not commonly known in related disciplines. The Metropolitan Dade County Historic Preservation Board has been exposed, also for the first time, to issues and discussions about opportunities through advanced techniques, program management and development, and the availability of resources heretofore unknown to them. This has been good for the people of Dade County. Much of this has come to us through the thoughtful discussion and information offered by CRM.

CRM has been a welcome visitor to my personal and professional mailbox for a number of years. Bringing it along to the office has made colleagues and other interested people more aware of just about everything we in preservation face. No single resource has been more effective this past year, in expanding the thoughts, capacity, and capability of this agency, its staff and the many other individuals and groups we are in contact with here in South Florida.

In separate correspondence I have asked that all members of our Preservation Board, staff, and advocacy agencies be added to your subscription rolls. I hope it is of value to you to know that CRM is so valuable out here in the communities, offices, and efforts of preservationists in Dade County. It is full of important news and background, and serves us as a superb teaching instrument. It is an outstanding journal of interest to the professional and lay person alike. It is of far more immediate value to our efforts and community than any slick glossy highlighting the latest advance in the 'save-the-pretty-building' movement. You're running the most useful publication I know of. I have to hide mine in my office to prevent people from walking away with my copy.

Thanks to you and your staff, for much help.

—Gene F. Barfield

Director, Office of Community and
Economic Development
Historic Preservation Division,
Miami, FL

Dear Editor:

I enjoyed Elizabeth Shepard's article on the Boston burying grounds (CRM, Vol. 19, No. 7). I thought your readers would like the following quote from a report of a 1992 trip I had taken around the world. It is a quote I often use as a lesson in the process of change and the impact of technology.

"I was surprised, impressed and reassured by a visit we made

to a cemetery in downtown Boston. City-run since the city began, it is a small green site, fenced along the sidewalk, tightly surrounded on three sides by brick buildings. Ben Franklin's family, Paul Revere and several other famous citizens are buried here among a lot of insignificant others.

"There are rows and rows of grey slate headstones; most weathered so badly that they are mere markers without inscription. A few flowers, a few flags mark the prominent names and the known graves.

"A small plaque describes the history and ownership of the cemetery and goes on to note that originally the headstones were not lined in rows because the burial plots had been randomly placed on the land. [The plaque goes on to say,]

'However, with the invention of the lawnmower in the 1860s, the stones were rearranged into the present row pattern'."

—Robertson E. Collins
Singapore



Dear Editor:

It was somewhat surprising to read the latest copy of CRM, which was intended as a tribute for the 30th anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act (CRM, Vol. 19, No. 6), and not find a single mention of Native American efforts or contributions to the protection of our Nation's Heritage. In the Pacific Northwest, and other places across the country, Native Americans are becoming increasingly more involved in cultural resource management activities. Native Americans are reviewing and writing reports,

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Eliza Mathias
recording petro-
glyph site along
Columbia River.

Photo courtesy
Kathy Kiefer.

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monitoring sites, working on survey crews, commenting on proposals, working in labs, museums, and repositories. Not only do they contribute directly to the protection of cultural resources, their involvement provides opportunities for others to gain a deeper, shared understanding of what the landscapes, places, and sites of their ancestors mean. When it comes time to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the NHPA, we hope that Native Americans will be more prominently recognized for their participation in the protection of this country's priceless heritage.

—Darby Stapp
Cultural Resources Coordinator
CH2M Hill Hanford, Inc.
Richland, WA
—Kathy Kiefer
Grant County P.U.D., WA

Dear Editor:

Thank you for including a review of Paul Hedren's *Traveler's Guide to the Great Sioux War; The Battlefields Forts and Related Sites of America's Greatest Indian Wars* in CRM Vol. 19 No. 7. I was pleased that your reviewer, Lawrence Van Horn, thought so highly of the book. There was one error in his review, however, which I feel needs correcting. The price of the paperback edition is \$10.95, not \$37.50 as stated in the review.

Readers who would like to purchase copies of *Traveler's Guide* should be able to find it in their local bookstores. Books are also available directly from the Montana Historical Society by calling 1-800-243-9900.

—Martha Kohl, Editor
Montana Historical Society Press

PRESERVATION RESOURCES

Inventory Pilot Study

The Frank Lloyd Wright Building Conservancy received a \$30,000 grant from the National Park Service's National Center for Preservation Technology and Training last October to begin a survey of Wright structures nationwide. Dr. David DeLong, Chairman of the Graduate Program in Historic Preservation at the University of Pennsylvania, and Professor Frank G. Matero, who team-teaches a graduate seminar on Frank Lloyd Wright with DeLong, oversees the pilot study. In May, students of the Wright seminar chose 25 structures representing the full range of Wright's practice to visit on site, speak with the owner, research available archival materials, and document preservation and maintenance projects on the house. Historical information on the original and subsequent owners, as well as the house and its construction, was also recorded. Students made a cursory condition/needs report and identified and documented architects, craftsmen, and contractors who have worked on the houses over the years.

Information gathered by the students of the seminar has been entered into a database specifically designed for the inventorying of the Wright properties. It is now available to homeowners and building administrators. Also, the Conservancy is using it to "red line" certain maintenance and restoration problems faced by many owners. It will then conduct research to establish appropriate

procedures, document the procedures, and then distribute the information free to Wright building owners. The Conservancy will use the information gathered to further its mission to facilitate the preservation of the remaining structures designed by Frank Lloyd Wright.

For further information, contact Sara-Ann B. Briggs, Executive Director, The Frank Lloyd Wright Building Conservancy, 343 S. Dearborn Street, Suite 1701, Chicago, IL 60604-3815; 312-663-1786; fax: 312-663-1683; email: <bldgcons@aol.com>, or visit its website at <<http://www.swcp.com/FLW>>.

Publications

NPS/FHWA Project

The National Park Service is working in partnership with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to develop two publications that will assist programs in both agencies.

Intrinsic Qualities Handbook will explain how to assess scenic byway corridors according to the six intrinsic qualities described in the scenic byway program legislation. It is being coordinated by Evelyn Swimmer, landscape architect in the Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program (RTCA) in Philadelphia. Completion date for the handbook is scheduled for December 1996.

Corridor Management Plan Case Studies will highlight outstanding corridor management plans which exemplify good ways to address the 14 factors required by FHWA. The first case study was compiled this summer, with completion of the last case study and project close-out in mid-1997.